

REMARKS

Summary of Changes Made

By this Amendment, claims 20-24 and 29-40 have been cancelled. Claims 1-19 were canceled in a previous amendment. Accordingly, claims 25 - 28 remain pending in the application. Claim 25 has been amended to correct a minor issue regarding an abbreviation. The scope of claim 25 is unchanged by this amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action mailed November 21, 2003 claims 20-24, 29-35 and 37-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement, namely that certain subject matter was not described in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner believes that support could not be found in the disclosure for the concept of applying a fired-on coating to any substrate as recited in claims 33, 35 and 37-40, and specifically a plastic substrate in claims 20-24, 29-32 and 34. The Examiner will note that claims 20-24 and 29-40 have all been cancelled, leaving only claims 25-28 pending. The Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is thus rendered moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 21-24 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner will note that claims 20-24 and 29-40 have all been cancelled, leaving only claims 25-28 pending. The Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is thus rendered moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b) (Shouji)

Claim 36 was rejected as anticipated by Shouji et al. U.S. 6,068,911 ("Shouji"). The Examiner will note that claims 20-24 and 29-40 have all been cancelled, leaving only claims 25-28 pending. The Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is thus rendered moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b) (Doushita)

Claims 20-24, 29-31, 33, 35, 39, 39 and 40 have been rejected as anticipated by Doushita et al. U.S. 6,156,409 ("Doushita"). The Examiner will note that claims 20-24 and 29-40 have all been cancelled, leaving only claims 25-28 pending. The Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is thus rendered moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a) (Nakanishi in view of Ogawa)

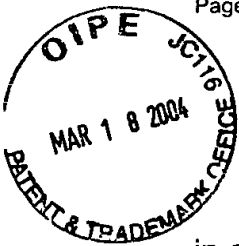
Claims 20-24, 29-31, 33, 35, and 37 - 40 have been rejected as anticipated by Nakanishi et al. U.S. 5,424,130 ("Nakanishi") in view of Ogawa et al. U.S. 5,437,894 ("Ogawa"). The Examiner will note that claims 20-24 and 29-40 have all been cancelled, leaving only claims 25-28 pending. The Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is thus rendered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants expressly acknowledge that Examiner finds Claims 25 through 28 to be allowable subject matter.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicants include herewith a supplemental information disclosure statement (SIDS) and a concise statement of relevance of a non-English language reference. The SIDS contains one patent, to Gross, et al, U.S. 6,649,266 ("the Gross patent"). The German equivalent of the Gross patent (DE 199 17 366) was recently cited in the prosecution of the German case corresponding to the instant application before the German Patent Office. Further, the concise statement of relevance of DE 0 909 747 is provided in accordance with the Examiner's requirement set forth in paper 12, mailed November 21, 2003.



CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 06-0625, our Order No. FER-12790

Respectfully submitted,

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